

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3 and follows:

Advantageously, in a filter element according to the invention, the functions of foldability, support of the synthetic layers, and very fine filtration are integrated in the cellulose layer located on the outflow side. In contrast to the known arrangements, in the invention the entire filter volume is used for particle separation in a system with filter fineness increasing in the flow direction, whereby the finest filter layer is constructed as a predominantly cellulose-based filter layer in particular and not as a synthetic filter layer (for example, a melt-blown material).

Please amend the second full paragraph on page 3 as follows:

In one preferred embodiment of the filter element according to the invention, the above-described cooperation of the various degrees of separation and storage capacities of the different layers is achieved by the fact that the inflow-side filter medium is comprised of a predominantly cellulose-containing filter paper and the outflow-side filter medium likewise is comprised of a predominantly cellulose-containing filter paper. In such a case, a suitably adjusted admixture of cellulose fibers in a paper filter produces a corresponding filtration effect of the respective layer as mentioned above.